

Message Text

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TAGS: ILO

SUBJ: DISCUSSIONS WITH ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL FRANCIS BLANCHARD

1. I CALLED THIS AFTERNOON ON FRANCIS BLANCHARD, DIRECTOR GENERAL, ILO, PRIMARILY TO GET HIS REACTIONS TO HIS RECENT TRIP TO NEW YORK WHERE HE MET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM, MR. MOREY OF STATE AND MR. PERSONS OF THE LABOR DEPARTMENT. HIS PRESENTATION TOUCHED THREE TOPICS: A) THE US CONTRIBUTION, B) THE CONFERENCE PRESIDENT FOR 1974, AND C) THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GOVERNING BODY.

2. THE US CONTRIBUTION -- BLANCHARD UNDERSTOOD FROM HIS CONVERSATIONS IN NEW YORK THAT WE WOULD SEEK TO PERSUADE THE SENATE TO KEEP THE \$2.3 MILLION DISALLOWED IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST AND GAIN A FULL RESTORATION FROM A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE OF THE TWO HOUSES. HE HOPED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME GOOD NEWS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING BY THE TIME THE CONFERENCE CONVENED IN JUNE BECAUSE HE FELT THAT THE US MIGHT BE SEVERELY CRITICIZED AT THIS MEETING IF WE WERE NOT PAID UP OR ON THE VERGE OF DOING SO.

3. 1974 CONFERENCE PRESIDENT -- HE REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT GENERAL SALA, LABOR MINISTER OF PERU, HAS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED HIS CANDIDACY FOR CONFERENCE PRESIDENT AND HE KNOWS

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THAT THE US WILL SUPPORT THE CANDIDATE OF LATIN AMERICA.

AS OF TODAY HE STILL DID NOT HAVE ANY FIRM INDICATION THAT PEART OF JAMAICA WAS AN ACTIVE CANDIDATE. I COULD NOT ENLIGHTEN HIM ON THIS POINT SINCE WE HAD NOT PICKED UP ANY DEFINITIVE INFORMATION THAT HE WAS RUNNING. BLANCHARD MENTIONED THAT LAST FRIDAY HE HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM MR. SEIDMAN OF THE AFL-CIO TAKING EXCEPTION TO GENERAL SALA'S CANDIDACY. APPARENTLY SALA HAD AT ONE TIME PRESIDED OVER AN INTERNATIONAL LABOR MEETING IN FULL MILITARY UNIFORM WHICH DID NOT GO OVER WELL WITH THE WORKERS AND OTHERS ATTENDING.

4. CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GOVERNING BODY -- THE 1974-75 TERM HAS BEEN CLAIMED BY AFRICA AND THE AFRICANS HAVE CHOSEN MOROCCO AS THE REGIONAL CANDIDATE. MR. DIJI (PHONETIC) OF MOROCCO, ITS CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMANSHIP IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO BLANCHARD WHO REGARDS HIM AS ABLE, REASONABLE AND NOT ONE INCLINED TO CREATE TROUBLES OR DIFFICULTIES. HE MENTIONED THAT IN HIS CONVERSATIONS HERE WITH A NUMBER OF SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIALS INTERESTED IN ILO AFFAIRS NOT ONE OF THEM INDICATED THAT THE SOVIETS INTEND TO LAY CLAIM TO THE CHAIRMANSHIP. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS SOME INDICATION A POLE MIGHT TOSS HIS HAT INTO THE RING BUT THUS FAR NOTHING HAS COME OF IT. HE ALSO TOLD ME THAT IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE MOROCCANS HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOLITIC AND NON-PRODUCTIVE TO PERMIT SENSITIVE AND EXPLOSIVE ISSUES TO BE INTRODUCED AND DEBATED. HE HAD IN MIND SUCH ITEMS AS RESOLUTIONS AGAINST PORTUGAL AND ISRAEL. HE PERSONALLY THINKS WITH DIJI IN THE CHAIR THESE ITEMS COULD BE KEPT UNDER REASONABLE CONTROL.

5. I TOOK THE OCCASION TO REFER TO THE GENEVA GROUP'S CONSIDERATION OF THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL TO STUDY NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE ILO (STATE 067875). I EXPLAINED IN GENERAL TERMS OUR POSITION AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE DID NOT INTEND THAT THESE PROPOSALS ON NEW DIRECTIONS WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNING BODY BUT THAT THEY WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL. BLANCHARD UNDERSTOOD THAT WE WERE NOT SEEKING TO CIRCUMVENT HIM BUT RATHER TO IDENTIFY "NEW DIRECTIONS" FOR THE ILO IN THE YEARS AHEAD. HE SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD SOME REPORTS ABOUT WHAT THE GENEVA GROUP WAS DOING AND WAS GRATEFUL FOR MY EXPLANATION. HE FELT, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WORK IN THE GENEVA GROUP SHOULD BE HELD WITHIN IT ON A "CONFIDENTIAL" BASIS. HIS FEAR WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THESE STUDIES AND PROPOSALS IN THEIR DEVELOPING STAGES COULD GET OUT TO THE GOVERNING BODY AND TO THE LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH MIGHT MISUNDERSTAND WHAT WE WERE TRYING TO DO. I AGREED THAT HIS POINT HAD MERIT AND THAT I WOULD RECOMMEND TO OUR PEOPLE THAT WE TRY TO CONFINE OUR WORK WITHIN THE GENEVA GROUP.

6. BLANCHARD INDICATED THAT HE WAS BEGINNING TO BLOCK OUT TIME

FOR A VISIT TO WASHINGTON SOMETIME IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER AND WAS PLANNING TO WRITE TO MR. MEANY, PRESIDENT OF THE AFL-CIO, ABOUT HIS TRAVEL PLANS TO WASHINGTON IN THE HOPE THAT HE COULD ARRANGE A MEETING WITH HIM.

7. COMMENT: MOST IF NOT ALL THAT IS BEING REPORTED MAY ALREADY BE KNOWN TO MESSRS. BUFFUM, MOREY AND PERSONS. NEVERTHELESS, I BELIEVE IT USEFUL FOR THEM TO HAVE BLANCHARD'S REACTIONS TO HIS VISIT. I FOUND HIM FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL, WILLING TO TAKE US INTO HIS CONFIDENCE AND EAGER TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF MUTUAL CONCERN. WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT FILLING THE KEY POSTS IN THE ILO HE WAS MOST COMPLIMENTARY ABOUT THE POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL WHICH MR. PERSONS HAD PRESENTED. HE FOUND IT A HELPFUL AND USEFUL PAPER. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD DECIDED NOT TO MAKE ANY OF THE THREE TOP APPOINTMENTS TO THE ILO UNTIL AFTER THE JUNE CONFERENCE WAS OVER. HE FELT THAT HIS LEVERAGE WOULD BE SO MUCH GREATER BY WAITING UNTIL AFTER THAT MEETING. HE DID INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER AMERICAN CANDIDATES AT ANY TIME.DALE

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